

NOTE ON THE TYPE OF *GEOMELANIA*, PFEIFFER, WITH THE
DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES.

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THE genus *Geomelania* was founded by Pfeiffer (Proc. Zool. Soc., 1845, p. 45) for *G. Jamaicensis*, which he then described from Cuming's collection. In an endeavour some little while ago to identify some species of this group, it was brought to my notice that there was some confusion as to the actual form described by Pfeiffer, and the object of these notes is to clear up this difficulty.

Pfeiffer's description is brief: he gave no figure, but states that the shell is 12 mm. long.

Cuming had apparently two or more species, as they would now be called, which he placed together and distributed as *G. Jamaicensis* to various correspondents. After a careful examination I have, I think, traced the actual types of the species (Fig. 2), labelled as from the locality that Pfeiffer gave, and which agree well with the figures given by Pfeiffer himself (Conch. Cab., Cyclostomacea, pl. xxx, figs. 19, 20).

C. B. Adams received from Cuming a different shell of larger size, and consequently the description of *G. Jamaicensis* given by him

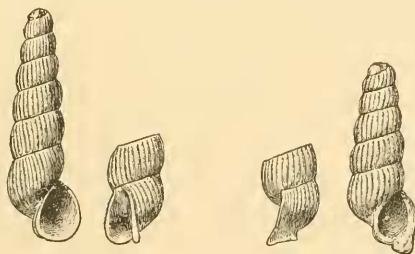


FIG. 1.

FIG. 2.

(Contrib. Conch., p. 18) must not be relied upon as referring to the present species, and probably the shells he had, require a name: I forbear to suggest one, however, as I am at present not sufficiently acquainted with the group.

In 1851 Petit (J. Conchyl., vol. ii, p. 82, pl. ii, fig. 4) gave a figure, purporting to represent the species, "d'après un individu qui nous a été donné par M. Cuming." This, again, was not the true *G. Jamaicensis*, and was probably the same form as was sent to Adams.

One naturally turns to Adams' species to see what name he utilised for the true *G. Jamaicensis*: I think his *G. affinis* is the same species, and so that name becomes a synonym.

The shells I now describe were collected by Mr. Jarvis and Mr. Nutt, and the species is separable, when adult, from all the forms of *Geomelania* known to me, by the fact that it forms a second lip and peristome, within and beyond the earlier one. This seems to be a constant, though remarkable, character. There is a series of the present form in Chitty's collection, now in the British Museum, marked by him "n.s.," but only one or two of those show the duplication. Another noteworthy feature is the absence of any spiral sculpture; there is also a lack of any denticle or projection on the outer margin of the peristome.

I append a diagnosis.

GEOMELANIA JARVISI, n.sp. Fig. 1.

Shell much elongated, almost cylindrical, but tapering very slowly towards the apex; colour almost transparent white, becoming chalky in appearance when dead; sculpture, numerous well-marked ribs, the latter being slightly arcuate and extending over the whole of the shell; apex truncate; whorls, seven remaining, very convex, separated by a deep suture; aperture ovate, the outer margin being well expanded and reflexed, a trifle 'squared' at the base, and without any trace of denticle or projection; a well-marked callosity joins the margins; the adult shell has a second lip formed in and beyond the first, very similar in character. Alt. 10, diam. (penultimate whorl) 2 mm.

Hab.—Near Albert Town, Trelawney, Jamaica.

Type in my collection.
